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MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 24 January 1994 from the representatives of Kazakhstan and Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from our Governments, we have the honour to transmit to you the text of the declaration entitled "The modern world: challenges and dangers", issued by the Presidents of Ukraine and the Republic of Kazakhstan, as well as a letter from the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the two countries (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly under the agenda item entitled "Maintenance of international security".

(Signed) Akmaral K. ARYSTANBEKOVA
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Kazakhstan to the
United Nations

(Signed) Volodymyr D. KHANDOGY
Acting Permanent Representative
of Ukraine to the United Nations

ANNEX

Letter dated 20 January 1994 from the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine and Kazakhstan addressed to the Secretary-General

We take this opportunity to convey to you the assurances of our highest consideration and express our confidence that in your highly responsible position of Secretary-General of the United Nations, you will continue to promote friendly relations and strengthen the general process of mutual understanding between peoples.

Our States highly appreciate and support the efforts of the United Nations to maintain peace and stability in various regions of the world.

This position is confirmed by the joint declaration, entitled "The modern world: challenges and dangers", issued by the Presidents of our States, which we are transmitting to you herewith. We should be grateful if you would have it circulated as an official document of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

(Signed) A. ZLENKO
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of Ukraine

(Signed) T. SULEIMENOV
Minister for Foreign Affairs of
the Republic of Kazakhstan

APPENDIX

Declaration issued by the President of Ukraine, Mr. Leonid Kravchuk, and the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Mr. Nursultan Nazarbaev "The modern world: challenges and dangers"

The end of the twentieth century is approaching. Mankind is preparing to enter a new era of development. History has quickened its pace and made mankind a participant in and witness to far-reaching changes in the world order. The world has become more open and interdependent. The era of major confrontation between two systems and military and political blocs is over. Many peoples who have established new independent States have entered the world community of nations as equals.

At the same time, the positive changes taking place in Europe and Asia have given rise to new challenges and dangers. These include: the intensification of inter-ethnic conflicts, the creation of zones with "security vacuums", and outside attempts to destabilize the newly independent States and establish "spheres of influence".

All this requires the adoption of urgent and appropriate measures and decisions. Adhering to the principle of the indivisibility of international peace and security, Ukraine and Kazakhstan consider that the threat to the national security of any State is a threat to universal security and world peace. The principles "individual security through collective security" and "internal stability contributes to global stability" should become axioms of world politics.

The existing security concerns of a number of States can be allayed only by the creation of an interregional universal security system "from Vancouver to Vladivostok", which would include all States without exception. An important role in this process is played by such international organizations and institutions as the United Nations, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), the North Altantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the North Atlantic Cooperation Council.

The concept of a "partnership for peace", put forward by the heads of the States members of NATO, has great potential. Its implementation will make it possible to broaden the framework of stability, peace and confidence among States.

The most significant event of the past decade was the formation of new independent States in the territory of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Seeking to foster among themselves new, civilized relations based on sovereign equality, equal rights, good-neighbourliness, non-interference in internal affairs and mutual respect, our States, which have shared a long and thorny historical path, decided to establish a Commonwealth in order to assist each other in overcoming the difficult legacy of the totalitarian era and

maintain good and mutually advantageous relations that would strengthen friendship among our peoples.

The Commonwealth of Independent States has existed for over two years. Its development has been complex and contradictory and has often been accompanied by instability and crises that sometimes escalate into serious conflicts. However, we can confidently state that the principal achievements of the Commonwealth's two years of existence have been the prevention of global cataclysms and upheavals in the territory of the former USSR, which had been predicted by a number of politicians; the accelerated integration of the new States into the world community; and the laying of the foundations for strengthening the most important and priceless acquisition of our peoples - independence and the right to be masters of their own fate.

Ukraine and Kazakhstan are multi-ethnic States that are building open and democratic societies; their development is founded on the maintenance and strengthening of international and social peace and harmony. We recognize the tremendous importance of strengthening civil and inter-ethnic stability in our countries and in other States of the Commonwealth, and we declare our firm resolution to pursue this course.

In this regard, we are deeply concerned at certain trends in the international situation both in the Commonwealth of Independent States and in the development of individual countries of the Commonwealth. We have no right to turn a blind eye to the recent rise of irresponsible forces that are seeking to resuscitate the totalitarian regime, fomenting inter-ethnic strife, xenophobia and chauvinism, and propounding destructive ideas that are inconsistent with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of CSCE. These phenomena, which are alien to civilized international relations, were recently condemned by the ministers for foreign affairs of the States members of CSCE and the heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

We solemnly declare that support for aggressive national patriotism, great-Power chauvinism, national exclusiveness and intolerance can lead to destructive consequences on a global scale. We call upon all sober-minded politicians, the peoples of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the entire international community to make concerted efforts to prevent the further spread of ideas based on fascist propaganda, calls for expansionism and all attempts to carry out such policies, which pose a threat not only to the newly independent States but to the whole world.

Ukraine and Kazakhstan, which have decided of their own free will to rid themselves of nuclear weapons, the most deadly arms in the history of mankind, cannot help feeling anxious about their security, which is unthinkable outside the context of universal international security. We call upon all interested countries and Governments, democratic forces and world public opinion to redouble their efforts to build a safer and more stable world based on cooperation, mutual assistance and profound mutual respect among peoples.

Ukraine and Kazakhstan, acting jointly or pursuing similar policies, will endeavour to create an atmosphere of mutual understanding and confidence, engage in mutually advantageous trade and economic cooperation and continue to make significant contributions to the strengthening of regional and global security and stability.

Leonid KRAVCHUK
President of Ukraine

Nursultan NAZARBAEV
President of the Republic of Kazakhstan

20 January 1994
Kiev